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September 12, 2011

Honorable Paul E. Opsommer, Chair
House Transportation Committee
124 North Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Re: HB 4608

Dear Representative Opsommer:

I'm writing to oppose HB 4608, and encourage you and the committee members to oppose it as well.

I have been an avid motorcyclist that has ridden for over 50 years, and I am a Motorcycle Safety Coach that has had a hand in training over 9,000 Motorcyclists. There is a consistent body of data that show that repeal of helmet laws leads to an increase in deaths and serious head injuries.

States that have repealed their helmet laws have had an increase in serious injuries and death. It's irresponsible to repeal or weaken a statute that saves lives and minimizes injury.

Additionally, the changes to statute in this bill will be impossible to enforce, and it will greatly increase the demand for the motorcycle safety class, which has been unable to meet the demand for training potential riders.

Most likely it will cause an increase in insurance rates for all motorcyclists. In a state that requires Helmet use, well over 90% of the riders wear a helmet. If helmet use is not required, that number drops to less than 60%. With the number of crashes motorcyclists are involved in, the potential costs to the Catastrophic Claims fund; this action could cripple our already stressed system.

Please do not force this additional financial burden on Michigan Motorcyclists and their families.

Regards,
Steven Lick